



United States Department of Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the Chief
Information Officer

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

April 9, 2019

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Hart Wood
American Oversight
1030 15th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

**RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2019-DA-02055-F
Final Response**

Dear Mr. Wood:

This is the Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO) final response to the above-referenced FOIA request seeking the items described below:

All email communications (including email messages, attachments, calendar entries, or calendar invitations) between political appointees in the offices listed below and Jeffrey Clark in his position at Kirkland & Ellis LLP (jeffrey.clark@kirkland.com). Please provide all responsive records from September 1, 2005, through January 20, 2009, and January 20, 2017, through October 31, 2018.

All email communications (including email messages, attachments, calendar entries, or calendar invitations) between political appointees in the offices listed below and Jeffrey Wood in his position at Balch & Bingham LLP (jhwood@balch.com). Please provide all responsive records from June 1, 2014, through January 21, 2017.

We request that USDA search the records of political appointees in the following offices:

- i. The Immediate Office of the Secretary
- ii. The Office of the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment
- iii. The Office of the Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation

Your request has been processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO) telecommunications provider, Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC performs network services for OCIO to include

electronic messaging operations, electronic calendars, blackberry, mobile device management (MDM), file and print, remote access, voice, network, service desk, and other application services.

No responsive records were found as a result of the search.

You may appeal this response by email at USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov, or by mail to the Assistant Secretary for Administration at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Whitten Building, Room 209-A, Washington, D.C. 20250-0103. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The DFO will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above, a copy of the original request, the DFO's response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Ravoyne Payton at USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about its FOIA mediation services. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact 202-694-5982 or USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

ALEXIS
GRAVES

Digitally signed by
ALEXIS GRAVES
Date: 2019.04.09
08:59:21 -04'00'

Alexis Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer